



# The 12th Edition

Volume 4, Issue 9

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, September 20, 2002

## News Briefs

### Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is 3 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Officers Club.

Honorees need to be in place by 2:25 p.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 8-6053.

### Remote vote

Individuals interested in voting in their home state elections need to use an absentee ballot form to vote.

For more information about absentee voting, call Cheryl Millner at 8-4767.

### CFC drive

The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign Drive continues through Oct. 10 and is open to all military members and government civilians. The CFC provides an opportunity to donate to a variety of base, local, state and national charities. Donations can be made either as cash or payroll deductions.

For more information, visit <https://intranet/cfc/> or call Capt. Littleton at 8-6792 or TSgt. Overton at 8-5620.

### Volunteers needed

Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help with the "Building Freedom Day" project which began Sept. 11. Habitat for Humanity is continuing the building process Saturdays through February.

For more information, call Lisa Giannini at 326-1217 ext. 213.

### Free photos

The Professional Photographers of Arizona are offering military members and their families a free portrait session, one free 5x7 photo, and the digital negative for personal use.

For more information, call Philip Ramackers at 327-7262.

## Twelfth Air Force begins realignment

By **Capt. Trisha Cundiff**

12th Air Force Public Affairs

Twelfth Air Force will undergo changes as it gains three active-duty wings and five Air National Guard wings beginning in October.

Twelfth Air Force will become one of two Air Combat Command conventional fighter and bomber numbered air forces. It will retain command of US Southern Air Forces.

Twelfth Air Force is one of three ACC numbered air forces restructuring to better integrate information operations into the combat air forces. This reorganization serves to align command-and-control assets, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms and information-operations resources under Eighth Air Force, while placing tactical fighter and bomber aircraft under Twelfth and Ninth Air Forces.

The changes won't affect physical location of people or aircraft. Units with similar missions will be placed in the same chain of command to improve training, equipping, and command and control, officials said.

This realignment is a phased operation.

During phase one, the Air Intelligence Agency realigned under ACC, and the 67th Information Operations Wing and 70th Intelligence Wing were assigned to Eighth Air Force in February 2001. Twelfth Air Force was not affected by this phase.

During the second phase, unit realignments will begin 1 Oct. and are scheduled for completion by 1 Oct. 2003.

"This realignment will allow Twelfth Air Force to maintain our proud heritage as an innovative, leading-edge unit," said

Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins, Twelfth Air Force commander.

"We're losing some outstanding units, but we're gaining superb warfighting bomber and fighter units – Dyess, Ellsworth, Cannon and several guard units – all of which have their own proud heritage and extremely supportive community. This support enables our airmen to use their incredible skills and capabilities and allow us to rapidly mobilize, deploy and engage our enemies anytime, anywhere."

### Twelfth Air Force unit movement

#### Gained units include:

27th Fighter Wing at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.  
7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas  
28 BW at Ellsworth, S.D.  
115 FW at Madison, Wis. (Air National Guard)  
131 FW at Lambert, Mo. (ANG)  
159 FW at New Orleans (ANG)  
183 FW at Capital, Ill. (ANG)  
188 FW at Fort Smith, Ark. (ANG)

#### Units moving from 12 AF include:

355th Wing at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (EC-130H only)

9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, Calif.

55th Wing at Offut AFB, Neb.

552nd Air Control Wing at Tinker AFB, Okla.

116th Air Combat Squadron at Camp Rilea, Ore. (ANG)

255 ACS at Gulfport, Miss. (ANG)

109 ACS at Salt Lake City (ANG)

141 ACS at Punta Borinquen, Puerto Rico (ANG)

513th Air Combat Group at Tinker AFB, Okla. (Air Force Reserve, E-3B/C only)

## Counterdrug conference promotes combined efforts

By **TSgt. Karin Wickwire**

12th Air Force Public Affairs

For the United States, the war on drugs is one that cannot be confined to, or fought with, solely domestic efforts – it is a war that must be battled across international borders.

In an effort to strengthen multi-national resolve and commitment to the war on drugs, delegates from nine South American Countries and the United States, met during the Regional Air Forces Counterdrug Conference, Sept 4-6 in Key West, Fla. The nine countries were Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Ecua-

dor, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

"The conference's intent was to foster good working relationships between the different nations' air forces and to develop concepts for moving forward on joint issues, such as information sharing agreements, combined exercises and development of a common operating picture for the region," said Lt. Col. David Jorgensen, Commander, Counterdrug Flight, Twelfth Air Force.

This purpose was achieved, in part, through briefings given by the South American delegates and the Office of Na-

tional Drug Control Policy.

Each South American delegate was given the opportunity to educate not only delegates from the United States, but also their neighboring countries, on how extensively their country's involvement was in counterdrug operations and the different ways they were engaging drug traffickers.

These briefings also gave the more experienced countries the opportunity to share lessons learned or give possible suggestions to assist other countries with their efforts, Lt. Col. Jorgensen said.

Dr. Barry Crane, Deputy Director for Supply Reduction,

Office of National Drug Control Policy, who was the keynote speaker, was responsible for providing the background briefing about the United States.

According to Dr. Crane, the primary mission of Office of National Drug Control Policy is to reduce the supply of illicit drug use and its consequences. While a substantial part of the United States drug control effort is domestic which focuses on stopping use before it starts and healing America's drug users; it's main international efforts focus on

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## New 12 AF Guard Advisor

**Name/Rank:** Colonel David K. Tanaka  
**Unit:** 12th Air Force  
**Duties/Responsibilities:** Air National Guard Advisor to the Commander, 12th Air Force

**Hometown:** Seattle  
**Family:** Wife and 4 children

### Leadership

**philosophy:** Strong leadership to provide direction is essential and at the same time taking care of the people because they are the ones who get the mission done. And always treating others the same way you would like to be treated.

**Favorite assignment until now -- why?** My favorite assignment is always the current one. Especially this assignment because the team here at 12th Air Force is great and we love the Tucson area.



# Air Force Mission needs support

By Capt Scott M. Partin

Air Force Mission Intelligence Officer, Bogotá, Colombia

I have been fortunate enough to enjoy four visits to one of the most beautiful countries in the world – Colombia. Many 12th Air Force members work in the Embassy or in the Colombian equivalent of the Pentagon here in Bogotá. Bogotá is a fantastic city with incredible museums, tree-lined boulevards, theaters, concerts, clubs, amusement parks, restaurants and many modern malls that rival the best I have seen in the United States. I have been fortunate to travel to more than 20 countries and consider Colombia to be my favorite, outside of the United States.

As the only South American country with both an Atlantic and Pacific coast, Columbia boasts many beautiful places. The entire country provides one with limitless opportunities in the form of natural beauty, resources and friendly people. Unfortunately, this beauty is juxtaposed against the soldiers sweeping minefields, an air force bombing within its own borders, and a navy engaging enemies on the coast and rivers.

Bogotá is the capital of a country at war with three

different insurgent groups. There is fighting against the government in all sectors of the nation. I did not have to spend too much time here to see signs that, in spite of the beauty and ambiance of this city, the nation is indeed entrenched in an ugly and ongoing war.

Families displaced from farms and villages arrive daily, seeking refuge from the insurgent movements that have seized their properties. Mothers and fathers with their children stand on street corners asking for assistance to provide enough change for their next meal. Citizens are afraid to travel for fear of being taken hostage by the insurgents or caught in the crossfire of one of the numerous battles occurring between the warring factions.

Military casualties from the minefields and battles are initially treated in regional clinics. For additional care, they are sent to the National Military Hospital in Bogotá.

The Air Force Mission Chief, Col. Kristian Skinner, and his wife Cheryl, work with Colombians and Americans to help the casualties of this ugly multi-faceted war. Mrs. Skinner leads a group of volunteers who have bake-sales at the mission. The proceeds are used

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## CONFERENCE

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disrupting the markets by attacking the economic basis of trade.

The United States has developed four main objectives for disrupting the market. They include eradicating the drug cultivation; interdicting drug traffickers, production and the organizations; an organizational attack on narco-terrorists; and to cause the financial collapse of at least one market sector, Dr. Crane explained.

“Efforts at disrupting the market have proven successful in several countries. For example, when the Peruvian air force interdicted drug traffickers in 1995, the cocoa growers in the region found the price of what they were paid for their efforts fell below their costs, essentially driving large numbers of people out of the drug market,” Dr. Crane said.

However, successful counterdrug operations must be with the full commitment of the international community because one country alone can’t stop the drug trafficking.

This was a point emphasized by General Hector Velasco, Chief, Colombian air force, whose presence marked the first time a nation’s air force chief of staff attended a regional counterdrug conference.

“In May 2000, the commanders of the Air Forces of the Americas met in San Antonio and at that point we commented we would give priority to a number of issues to be discussed at future meetings to target those issues more effectively,” he said. “However, I was disappointed at the time because the control of illicit flights was given the last priority.

“In December 2000, at the initiative of the commander of the Uruguayan air

force, we met again in Miami in order to address the most important issue at the time – narco-trafficking,” the general said. “In just a matter of months, the priorities had changed and the specific issue ahead was the illicit drug flights.

“Today it’s with great pleasure and optimism, that I can see by all the countries present at this conference we have finally given the issue the importance it needs. We all have a major generational responsibility to leave a better environment for the children – a future without the scourge of drugs,” he said.

“While this is a daunting challenge, it’s one that should not be left to the United States only because it is a shared responsibility. I believe we can defeat drug traffickers by confronting the problem in a joint manner,” the general stated.

The general’s optimistic view was shared by others which helped make the conference a success.

“What we saw by the end was that positive relationships had developed between all the countries’ delegates,” Lt. Col. Jorgensen said. “The desire for regional cooperation was enhanced, with all the delegates agreeing that bilateral agreements are a key ingredient to the successful prosecution of illicit flights.”

In the spirit of joint cooperation, there were also several goals set for future Regional Air Forces Counterdrug Conferences. The goals were:

□ Joint Interagency Task Force - East will reengage on ensuring standard operating procedures and hand off procedures are integrated with the Air Bridge Denial Program activation, and the liaison offic-

ers at JIATF-E will bring the new procedures to the next conference for a vote.

□ Enhancing secure communications.

□ Increased joint and combined exercises will be the responsibility of all, particularly those actively involved in ABDP.

□ Completing bilateral and multilateral information sharing agreements will be the responsibility of all countries.

The information sharing agreements are the biggest challenge to counterdrug operations but they are also a key to successful future operations.

“Very simply, these drug traffickers don’t respect any national boundaries, any laws of the countries, and they basically exploit the differences between countries to operate,” Dr. Crane explained. “So, if you’re chasing them and you don’t have an agreement with the other country, once the trafficker is across the border you can’t do anything. But if you have an agreement in place and they cross over the border, the other country will be waiting there to pick up the intercept.”

However, even with information sharing it will take the combined effort of all the countries to stop drug trafficking.

“It was the participation of each country that made this conference a great success,” said Brig. Gen. David S. Gray, Vice Commander, Twelfth Air Force. “And, while we had an outstanding showing by a majority of the South American countries, we also had suggestions to include all the countries from South America and those from Central America. This is a goal we are already actively working toward to ensure we truly are a regional conference.”



## The 12th Edition



Editorial content for *The 12th Edition* is edited, prepared and provided by the Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs Office.

Contributions for *The 12th Edition* can be made directly to the Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs Office, Building 12, Suite 228, or through e-mail to 12af.pa@dm.af.mil. The editor can be reached directly at 228-6053.

All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

*The 12th Edition* is a supplement to the *Desert Airman*, published by Aerotech News and Review, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written agreement with the 355th Wing. All Advertising is handled by Aerotech News and Review, 456 East Ave. K-4, Suite 8, Lancaster, Calif. 93535, phone (520) 623-9321.

They can also be reached by E-mail at [aeroaz@earthlink.net](mailto:aeroaz@earthlink.net).

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### Editorial Staff

#### Twelfth Air Force Commander

Lt. Gen. William Hobbins

Chief, Public Affairs

Capt. Karin McWhorter

NCOIC, Public Affairs

Tech. Sgt. Karin Wickwire



# SALUTE!

Congratulations to 12th AF warriors who recently were – or soon will be – promoted to the rank indicated and those who were recently awarded medals recognizing their accomplishments

## Promotees

### Airman 1st Class

Crystal Bumpers, Andrew Powell

### Senior Airman

Nicole Taylor

### Staff Sgt

Jeremy Benchley

### Master Sgt

Dawn Cooper, Thomas Zipprich

### Senior Master Sgt

Jesus Muro

### Captain

Gordon MacIntyre

### Major

James Albrecht

### Lieutenant Colonel

Patrick Ludford

## Medal Recipients

### Meritorious Service medal

MSgt. Brad Urban

TSgt. Wendy Brazier

### AF Commendation medal

1st Lt. Robert Koon

TSgt. Frank Gorgos

### Joint Service Achievement Medal

SSgt. Michael Dahl

### AF Achievement Medal

MSgt. Luis Rivera

## Top of the 12th

MSgt. Tereca F. Dye is the Superintendent, Supply Operations for 12th Air Force.

"MSgt Tereca Dye is a remarkable SNCO! She exceeds my expectations in every endeavor," said CMSgt. James

MacKinley, 12 AF/A4 Manager, Logistics Support. "I have never seen a

MSgt so dedicated to her job, and her military and civilian communities. She's my 'go to' SNCO no matter what the tasking entails."

**Years of service:** 19 years

**Hometown:** Des Moines, Iowa

**Primary Duties and Responsibilities:** Plans, directs and manages supply support for USSOUTHAF Forward Operating Locations in support of USAF counterdrug operations. Monitors supply support at 12 AF's seven operational wings.

**Favorite aspects of D-M:** The best aspect of Davis-Monthan is the relationship the base shares with the local community. I've never been stationed anywhere where the local community says, "Thanks for Serving" in such a generous way.

**What motivates your winning attitude?** I work with a great team that really supports each other. It's like each of us has our own cheerleading team! Besides that, my biggest motivation is my 17-year-old daughter who is so proud of what I do everyday.



MSgt. Dye

## MISSION

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to buy clothing and sweets that Mil-Group members and Colombians take to the injured along with get-well cards prepared by Mrs. Skinner's English-as-a-second-language class.

The Air Force Mission visits the National Military Hospital monthly, providing encouragement and hope to these Colombian heroes. Each month the mission visits about 80 soldiers. Most are different from the month before because once the soldiers heal sufficiently they are transferred to ambulatory care units for further therapy.

I went on my first trip to the hospital recently and

saw the results of those battles and mines. We met 19-21 year-old men with extremely serious wartime injuries. These are young men determined to improve the situation in their country, the oldest democracy in South America. They spend their time at the hospital studying to better themselves. These are young men who told me that when they leave the hospital, they want to return to their units and continue their mission of eradicating the plague of violence that threatens this past and potential future paradise.

It's a true irony on how the beauty of Colombia provides the perfect contrast to the ugliness of war.

*The Air Force Mission is seeking the following donations: Spanish books and videos, clothing, USAF unit patches and other souvenirs. If you are interested in helping, please contact Capt. Scott Partin at [partins@bogota.mg.southcom.mil](mailto:partins@bogota.mg.southcom.mil)*

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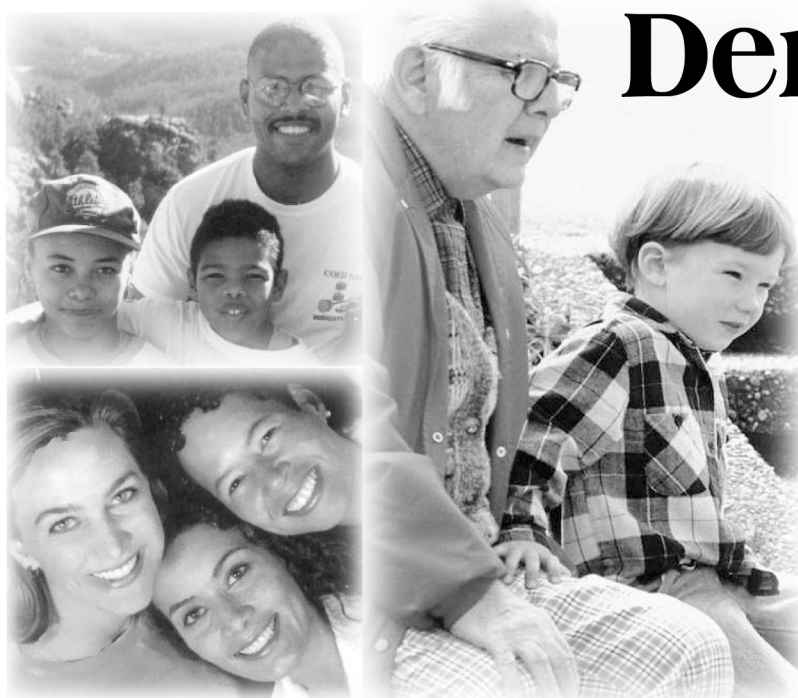
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